

REMARKS

With the entry of this amendment, claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-49 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 9 were previously cancelled without prejudice. By this amendment, claims 2-4, 6-8, 14-15 and 19-25 are withdrawn from consideration in response to the Restriction Requirement addressed below.

In the Restriction Requirement, the claims were restricted into the following two (2) groups:

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| Group I | Claims 2-4, 6-8, 14-15 and 19-25 and drawn to a method for reducing pain in a patient, classified in class 514, subclass 579. |
| Group II | Claims 10-13, 16-18, 26-49 drawn to a pharmaceutical composition, classified in class 424, subclass 490. |

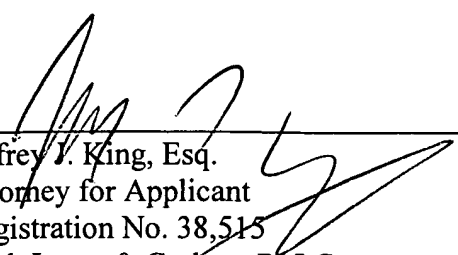
Applicants hereby elect Group II consisting of Claims 10-13, 16-18, 26-49 for prosecution at this time. This election is made with traverse, and no representations are made by this election concerning the merits of the Restriction Requirement with respect to the possible existence of multiple distinct inventions among the originally presented claims.

The Office has also levied a species election requirement, the substance of which Applicants remain somewhat uncertain of. If the species restriction is intended to direct Applicants to select one of the ranges of drug release kinetics set forth alternatively in claims 33, 37 and 41, then the range set forth in claim 33 is elected as the species for initial prosecution. If more specific values are actually called for, then Applicants elect as the initial species for prosecution a species within claim 33 "wherein less than about 17.7% of said compound is released within approximately 0.25 hours".

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of all non-elected claims and species in one or more related applications, and to rejoin all non-elected species in the present application upon allowance of one or more claims generic thereto.

Applications respectfully request allowance of all pending elected claims.

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